DC
SUPERGIRL
SUPERGIRL
20¢
NO. 8
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SUPERGIRL--YOUR HEAD OF SNAKES IS TURNING US INTO STONE!
I-I CAN'T STOP MYSELF!

GIVE YOURSELF UP, SUPERGIRL! LET US PUT YOU AWAY BEFORE YOUR TERRIBLE MEDUSA-POWER TURNS MORE INNOCENT VICTIMS TO STONE!
YOUR GAZE ALREADY TRANSFORMED HAWKMAN INTO STONE! WE CAN'T LET YOU DOOM ANYONE ELSE!
GREAT KRYPTON! THE WHOLE WORLD'S OUT TO GET ME... EVEN MY OWN COUSIN, SUPERMAN!
ONCE—THE MOST ADORED AND ADMIRED HEROINE ON EARTH—THE MIGHTY GIRL OF STEEL DISCOVERS OVERNIGHT SHE'S SUDDENLY BECOME THE MOST DEADLY FEMALE WHO EVER LIVED! SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SUPERGIRL IS CURSED BY...
"A HEAD-FULL OF SNAKES!"
STORY: CARY BATES
ART: ART SAAF
R-22E
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LATE AFTERNOON AT VANDYRE U.--WHERE A CHILLING THREAT CAN BE HEARD IF YOU LISTEN CLOSELY ENOUGH...
I DON'T FEAR YOU, WRETCHED WOMAN!
EVEN THOUGH GAZING UPON YOUR FACE IS LIKE PEERING INTO HELL ITSELF!
Theatre Department
VANDYRE U.
YOU ARE A FOOL, PERSEUS! SOONER OR LATER YOU'LL LOOK INTO THE EYES OF MEDUSA--AND THEN YOU'LL BE FOREVER TURNED TO STONE!
NO MORE--
NO MORE FOR TODAY, THAT IS! WE'LL HAVE A FINAL RUN-THROUGH TOMORROW!
YOU AND LINDA CAN TAKE OFF, MITCH!
GREAT!
I'LL SAY! AFTER THREE ACTS, I CAN'T WAIT TO TAKE THIS MEDUSA MASK OFF!
MAKING A BEAUTIFUL GIRL LIKE YOU THE UGLY MEDUSA --IS DEFINITELY NOT TYPE-CASTING!
THANKS, MITCH!
AFTER ALL THESE WEEKS OF PLAY REHEARSAL, I THINK MITCH IS FINALLY NOTICING ME! ABOUT TIME!
SOON, AS THE LEADING MAN WALKS THE LEADING LADY BACK TO HER DORM...
HELLO, CHILDREN! HOW IS THE PLAY COMING ALONG? KNOW ALL YOUR LINES?
WE SURE DO, PROF. GARTH!
AND THE WHOLE THEATRE CLASS HAS YOU TO THANK FOR THIS PRODUCTION!
GYM
2

ME? NONSENSE!
DON'T BE MODEST, PROF! IF IT WASN'T FOR YOUR LECTURE SERIES ABOUT THE NEW EVIDENCE OF THE ACTUAL EXISTENCE OF MEDUSA'S TOMB--
--NOBODY WOULD'VE CONSIDERED DOING A PLAY ABOUT HER!
WELL, DON'T FORGET YOU PROMISED ME A FRONT-ROW SEAT OPENING NIGHT!
SURE THING, PROF. GARTH! WE'D NEVER OPEN IT WITHOUT YOU!
MOMENTS LATER, IN FRONT OF LINDA'S DORM...
LINDA... FOR WEEKS NOW, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TELL YOU!
AT LAST! MITCH IS OVERCOMING HIS SHYNESS ...I THINK HE'S ABOUT TO KISS ME!
BUT, NEXT MOMENT, A MUFFLED SCREAM CARRIES THROUGH THE AIR THAT ONLY SUPER-EARS CAN HEAR...
LINDA... I-I—
OMIGOSH! NOT NOW! WHY DOES A CRISIS HAVE TO CROP UP JUST NOW!?
AS LINDA'S AMAZING X-RAY VISION TRACES THE SOURCE OF THE SCREAM ACROSS CAMPUS...
UH-OH! POOR PROF. GARTH IS BEING ATTACKED BY 3 MUGGERS! THE OLD WOMAN IS DEFENSELESS!
SHE NEEDS HELP!
A SPLIT-SECOND LATER...
HUH!?
WHERE'D LINDA DISAPPEAR TO?
G-GUESS I-I TURNED HER OFF!
3

MEANWHILE – BEHIND THE DORM, WHILE MITCH SEARCHES FOR HIS LOST LEADING LADY...
THE VANDYRE CAMPUS HAS BEEN PLAGUED WITH SEVERAL MUGGINGS THE PAST FEW WEEKS... BY A CITY-GANG THAT DECIDED TO GO TO COLLEGE!
NOW THEY'RE ABOUT TO BE EXPELLED--
BY SUPERGIRL!
C'MON, LADY – HAND OVER THE PURSE!
NOT IN A MILLION YEARS! I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU HOODLUMS!
AW – SHE'S JUST AN OLD HAG! WE CAN TAKE IT AWAY FROM HER!
SUDDENLY--AN UNEXPECTED WHIRLWIND OF DUST WHIPS AT THE THUGS, MOMENTARILY BLINDING THEM...
OWW-!
DUST IN MY EYES..!
MAKE SURE THE OLD BAT DON'T GET AWAY!
SHE AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE--!
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!
WH-WHAT'S GOT INTO H-HER?
OOFF!
CONTINUED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING
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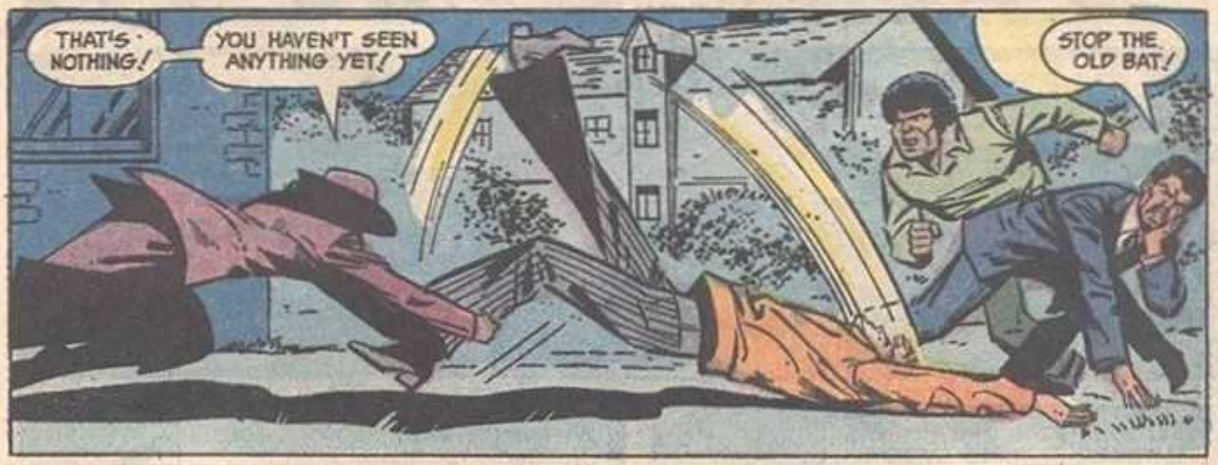
DID WE REALLY SEE HER DO THAT!?
VICK MUSTA TRIPPED OR SOMETHING! BUT LET'S NOT TAKE CHANCES!
DECK HER!
E.G.

UHHHH!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! NOT EVEN JOE FRAZIER COULD KNOCK JAKE OFF HIS FEET LIKE THAT!
AND THIS OLD LADY DID IT WITH A PURSE?!


THAT'S NOTHING!
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET!
STOP THE OLD BAT!

AND AS THE HOODLUMS RUSH TO THE AID OF THEIR PARTNER...
UHHHH!
OOHHHHH!
AS LONG AS WE'RE USING BASEBALL TERMINOLOGY-- THAT'S WHAT I CALL A TRIPLE-HEADER!

WELL, LOOKS LIKE YOU THREE PICKED THE WRONG "MUGGEE" THIS TIME!
5

SUPERGIRL! THAT WAS A BRILLIANT STROKE— REMOVING ME FROM THE THUGS AT SUPER-SPEED— AND THEN SWITCHING CLOTHES WITH ME DURING THE WHIRLWIND YOU WHIPPED UP!
THANKS, PROF! I WANTED TO TEACH THESE MUGGERS A LESSON THEY'D NEVER FORGET!

AFTER THEY RETURN EACH OTHER'S CLOTHES...
I'LL MAKE SURE THIS TRIO IS TIGHTLY TIED UP FOR THE CAMPUS POLICE!
ODD!...SOMETHING STRANGE SEEMS TO BE HAPPENING TO SUPERGIRL'S HEAD!

SO LONG, PROFESSOR! IT WAS A PLEASURE WORKING WITH YOU!
A MUTUAL PLEASURE, SUPERGIRL!
FOR A SECOND I THOUGHT I SAW—NO!
I MUST BE IMAGINING THINGS!

BUT WHEN PROF. GARTH TURNS TO FACE HER THREE CAPTORS...
THE MUGGERS HAVE BEEN TURNED TO STONE!!

MEANWHILE, SOARING HIGH ABOVE THROUGH THE NIGHT SKY...
HISSSSS
HISSSSS
TIME FOR ME TO SWITCH BACK TO LINDA AND FIND MITCH SO WE CAN PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF—
THOSE STRANGE SOUNDS I HEAR...LIKE HISSING NOISES!
WHERE ARE THEY COMING FROM?
6

IT-IT'S COMING FROM ME!
I HAVE A HEAD-FULL OF SNAKES JUST LIKE THE REAL MEDUSA!
NO! IT CAN'T BE TRUE!
THIS MUST BE SOME SORT OF ILLUSION!
NUMBED WITH SHOCK AND BAFFLEMENT, THE GIRL OF STEEL QUICKLY SPEEDS HUNDREDS OF MILES TO PLUNGE HERSELF INTO A STEAMING GEYSER...
SSSSSSSSS
THIS SUPER-HEATED WATER MAKES FOR THE HOTTEST BATH ON EARTH!
SURELY IT'S HOT ENOUGH TO SCALD MY HEAD BACK TO NORMAL!
BUT SADLY...
NO USE! THOSE TERRIBLE SNAKES SEEM TO BE INVULNERABLE...
THAT IS, IF THEY'RE REALLY THERE... AND I'M NOT HALLUCINATING!
ONE WAY TO VERIFY...
7

ONCE AGAIN SHE CALLS UPON HER AMAZING SUPER-VISION--SCANNING ACROSS MANY MILES, BACK TO VANDYRE U...
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT--SOLID AS A ROCK, ALL THREE OF THEM!
THEN, CRAZY AS IT SOUNDS--THE PROF'S THEORY MUST BE TRUE! IT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION!
I'M AFRAID SO, OFFICERS! SUPERGIRL HAS BECOME A TRUE MEDUSA! CAPABLE OF TURNING ANY-ONE TO STONE!
THAT CINCHES IT, THEN! THIS NIGHTMARE IS FOR REAL... AND ANYONE WHO LOOKS AT MY FACE WILL BE TURNED TO STONE LIKE THOSE THREE THUGS!
I'VE B-BECOME THE M-MOST DANGEROUS WOMAN ON EARTH!
SOON THE HORRIFYING NEWS SPREADS AROUND THE WORLD...
DAILY HERALD
SUPERGIRL "STONES" THUGS WITH MEDUSA GAZE
SUPERGIRL A MENACE TO ALL EYES!
NEWS SO HORRIBLE IT CALLS FOR THE MOST DRASTIC OF MEASURES...
...AN EMERGENCY TASK-FORCE FROM THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA...
ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS AGREED... SUPERGIRL MUST BE IMPRISONED FOR HER OWN SAFETY...
AND THE SAFETY OF OTHERS!
SHE'S A THREAT TO EVERY PERSON ON EARTH! SHE MUST SURRENDER TO US!
END PART ONE!
CONTINUED ON 51ST PAGE FOLLOWING
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PART 2
"A HEAD-FULL OF SNAKES"!
MEANWHILE—A TURBANED GIRL OF MIGHT LEAVES THE FABULOUS ARCTIC FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE...
CAN NOTHING HELP ME?
I SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT IN THE ULTRA-SCIENTIFIC LAB OF COUSIN SUPERMAN'S FORTRESS, BUT I COULDN'T CONCOCT A REMEDY OR AN ANTIDOTE TO RID ME OF THESE CURSED SNAKES!
SUDDENLY, A CHILL TELEPATHIC VOICE INVADES THE SUPER-HEROINE'S MIND...
OF COURSE YOU COULDN'T, SUPERGIRL!
FOR NO POWER ON EARTH CAN SAVE YOU FROM THE CURSE OF THE VIPERS!
GREAT KRYPTON! SOMEONE IS THREATENING ME... AND MY INTUITION TELLS ME SHE'S A FEMALE!
BUT BEFORE SHE CAN INVESTIGATE FURTHER...
UP AHEAD--THERE SHE IS! SUPERGIRL!
SMART THINKING, BATMAN... HAVING US CHECK SUPERMAN'S FORTRESS FOR HER!
GIVE YOURSELF UP TO US, SUPERGIRL! THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WILL FIND A CURE TO YOUR PROBLEM!
BATMAN... GREEN LANTERN... HAWKMAN... LISTEN TO ME!
I MUST TACKLE THIS CRISIS ALONE... MY OWN WAY! IT'S THE ONLY HOPE I'VE GOT!

WE DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU, SUPERGIRL! DON'T FORCE US INTO COMBAT!
PLEASE-- DON'T INTERFERE-- NOT NOW!
NOT WHEN I'M SO CLOSE TO FINDING OUT WHAT CHANGED ME THIS WAY!
AND THEN, WITHOUT WARNING...
OOOFF!
IT WORKED, LANTERN!
WE DISTRACTED HER LONG ENOUGH FOR HAWKMAN TO MAKE HIS SURPRISE ATTACK!
AS A FIERCE SUPER-POWERED STRUGGLE ENSUES...
IT'S NO USE, HAWKMAN!
YOU CAN'T HOLD ME BACK! I'M STRONGER THAN YOU!
GREAT STARS! YOUR TURBAN--IT'S COMING LOOSE!
THE NEXT MOMENT...
HAWKMAN! DON'T LOOK--
TOO LATE!--I'VE TURNED HIM TO STONE!
IF ONLY THE OTHERS LOOKED AWAY IN TIME--
--BUT THEY DIDN'T! BATMAN AND GREEN LANTERN ARE FALLING THROUGH THE AIR--SOLID-ROCK!
CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING.
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It's time for a historical look at one of *DC's* most interesting features—a group of super-heroes who have been fighting for 15 years to earn a permanent home in one of our magazines

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES

The Legion was born in the April, 1958 issue of Adventure Comics (#247) when *Superboy* traveled through time to the future to join a club of super-beings. Editor Mort Weisinger never intended them to become regular supporting characters, but the demand for the *Legion* was so great that he had to bring them back dozens of times in the next few years, to play bit parts in practically every one of the *Superman* family magazines that he edited, from *Action* to *Jimmy Olsen*. Even in the days before most comics had letters pages, the *Legion* had a large band of supporters, which seemingly grew along with the super-hero club (It had grown from three members to about 15). Finally, they got their chance at a series of their own. . . .

The Bizarros (Anyone out there remember *Superman's* imperfect double and his family?) had worn out their welcome as the back-feature in *Adventure Comics*, so the *Legion* took over with #300 in September, 1962, with *Superboy* soloing in the lead story, as he had for over 15 years.

The Legion's supporters were not going to settle for a mere back-feature; within a year, they had boosted the sales of *Adventure* issues with the *Legion* on the cover so much that our favorite super-stars took over the book—first as a 17-page cover feature, and then with book-length tales in a magazine re-titled *Adventure Comics featuring Superboy and The Legion of Super-Heroes! The Legion* held onto that slot until 1969 when *Supergirl* took over *Adventure* and they moved to the back of *Action Comics*, as they took another step backward on their long odyssey.

When Weisinger retired in 1971, Murray Boltinoff picked up the *Legion* for his stable of characters and featured them in the back of *Superboy*, picking former fans Cary Bates and Dave Cockrum (a life-long *Legion* freak) to handle the creative chores.

The masses of *Legion* fans still weren't happy; they insisted that DC give the *Legion* its own mag again. Everyone at the office thought that they deserved another chance, too, so a *Legion* reprint mag was published to test the sales potential. It succeeded, and if you pick up a new issue of *Superboy*, you'll find that it's now *Superboy* and *The Legion of Super-Heroes*. *The Legion* has come full circle again, and I hope they stay around another 15 years!

FLASH! The lives of the *Legionnaires* will be changed drastically by the events that are going to take place in *Superboy* #200, so no *Legion* fan can dare to miss that one! Watch *Direct Currents* for the exact on-sale date!

* * * * *

A few months ago, I wrote a *Behind The Scenes* column which talked about the Comic Art Convention, and I mentioned a few things about comic fans. Since then, I've received a number of letters asking more about the world of these people, and how to get involved in fandom. This month, then, let's take a long look at . . .

COMIC FANS!

Comic fans are people who can tell you every issue of every comic that *Superman* ever appeared in, who drew it, and what the title of the story was. They know the date that the new comics are due at their newsstands, and which ones are due out in any given week. They've been known to spend up to $500 for a copy of an old comic book, and deals for whole collections often run into thousands of dollars. They publish magazines about comics, ranging from news to unpublished stories by professional artists like Neal Adams or Berni Wrightson.

Conventions of fans take place all the time, all over the country. Regular monthly "cons" are held in New York City and Boston, and larger, annual affairs, are held in most major cities. If you want to enter the world of fandom, that's the best place to do it! A complete listing of conventions is unavailable, but a good list is available for a stamped, self-addressed envelope from Phil Seuling, 621 Avenue Z, Brooklyn, New York 11223.

It's a bit harder to get a hold of a list of quality fan magazines, however, I'll steer you in the direction of two of the most popular ones, and you can go from there. The first, if the truth be known, is my own magazine. (Secret identity revealing time, folks!) *The Comic Reader*, which is the *TV Guide* for the comics industry, is available from a hack named Paul Levitz at Post Office Box #23, Brooklyn, New York 11203. If you're more interested in reading comics than reading about comics, try *The Menomonee Falls Gazette*, a weekly newspaper composed entirely of comic strips, including Golden Age episodes of Superman and Tarzan, and strips by DC greats like Frank Robbins, Neal Adams, Doug Wildey, and an editor by the name of Archie Goodwin. Write for details to Post Office Box 255, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, 53051.

All this should start you on a career as a comic fan if that's what you're interested in. It's a wonderful world, and a lot of fun, and I hope you'll become a part of it.

—Paul Levitz

EYEBLINKS LATER, AFTER A THREE-WAY SUPER-SPEED RESCUE...
CHOKE! THREE OF THE WORLD'S MOST GALLANT HEROES... NOW LIFELESS STATUES BECAUSE OF ME!
NOT ONLY MUST I FIND A WAY TO CURE MYSELF... I MUST BRING MY VICTIMS BACK TO LIFE AS WELL!
IMPOSSIBLE— SUPERGIRL!
IT'S THAT TELEPATHIC VOICE AGAIN!
THE ONLY PERSON YOU'LL BRING BACK TO LIFE IS ME— YOU FOOL!
WHO ARE YOU?
WHY HAVE YOU TRANSFORMED ME INTO A HORRIBLE MENACE?
MY IDENTITY IS MY SECRET! AS FOR THE SNAKES— THEY'RE PART OF THE ANCIENT DREAD CURSE I'VE PLACED UPON YOU!
IF YOU DIE WITHIN THE NEXT 8 HOURS-- MY MENTAL SPIRIT WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER YOUR BODY AS SOON AS YOUR SPIRIT LEAVES IT!
THUS I SHALL BECOME FAR MORE DEADLY THAN I WAS MANY YEARS AGO...
...I SHALL BECOME A SUPER-GORGON!
GORGON!? IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY, THERE WERE THREE DAUGHTERS OF THE SEA-GOD PHORCUS... ALL WITH HIDEOUS FACES AND SNAKES FOR HAIR! AND THE MOST TERRIBLE WAS MEDUSA! THAT MUST MEAN—
YES, SUPERGIRL... I AM MEDUSA'S GHOST!!
BUT THE KNOWLEDGE WILL DO YOU NO GOOD— FOR YOU HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHERE MY SECRET TOMB IS HIDDEN!
AND BESIDES, YOU'LL BE TOO BUSY TO LOOK— SINCE YOU'LL SOON BE MEETING A VIOLENT DEATH!
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THE MAID OF MIGHT TAKES TO THE SKIES...
SO—THE MEDUSA GHOST SAYS A VIOLENT DEATH IS IN STORE FOR ME? BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! SHE MUST KNOW NO FORCE ON EARTH CAN HARM ME!
BUT SHE'S ALSO RIGHT—I CAN'T STRIKE BACK IF I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE'S ENTOMBED!
HOWEVER... I KNOW SOMEONE WHO OWES ME A FAVOR...SOMEONE WHO JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP UNCOVER THAT GHASTLY GORGON'S HIDING PLACE!
VANDYRE MYTHOLO DEPT.
AT THAT MOMENT, IN A MEN'S DORM ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CAMPUS...
HEY— WHAT'S WITH MITCH?
HE WAS FINE—THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN...HE TOOK OFF LIKE A WILD MAN!
SCANT MOMENTS LATER, AT THE VANDYRE MUSEUM...
SORRY, SON! THE MUSEUM'S CLOSED TILL TOMORROW! I CAN'T LET YOU IN!
I CAN-- AND I MUST!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
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AND INSIDE--AFTER RUSHING THROUGH THE ANCIENT GREECE EXHIBIT...
THERE IT IS... EVERYTHING I'LL NEED!
EVERYTHING I'LL NEED FOR MY UPCOMING RETURN BATTLE WITH THE HORRENDOUS MEDUSA!
THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, I RECEIVED MY HELMET FROM PLUTO, MY SWORD FROM MERCURY, AND MY SHIELD FROM MINERVA!
BUT THIS TIME, I CAN'T COUNT ON THE GODS FOR MY WEAPONS! JUST MY MAGIC!
PERSEUS, SON OF JUPITER
WHILE IN THE OFFICE OF STARTLED PROFESSOR GARTH...
WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME IS UTTERLY AMAZING, SUPERGIRL-TO THINK THE MEDUSA SPIRIT STILL THRIVES!
IS THIS THE AREA ON THE MAP YOU MENTIONED?
YES! THOSE CATACOMBS ARE SIMILAR TO THE FAMOUS ONES THAT CRISS-CROSS UNDERNEATH THE HILLS OF ROME! THAT NETWORK WAS DISCOVERED NEAR THE SITE OF MOUNT OLYMPUS JUST RECENTLY!
IT'S MY ACADEMIC GUESS THE MEDUSA'S TOMB IS SOMEWHERE IN THERE!
THEN-I'M OFF TO THE OLYMPIAN CATACOMBS! MY ONLY HOPE OF DEFEATING MEDUSA IS TO UNCOVER HER TOMB!
BE CAREFUL, SUPERGIRL! OTHERS AREN'T AS UNDERSTANDING AS I! REMEMBER, THE REST OF THE WORLD STILL CONSIDERS YOU A FRIGHTFUL MENACE THAT HAS TO BE STOPPED!
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AS SUPERGIRL SOARS SWIFTLY THROUGH NORTHERN SKIES— THE PROFESSOR'S WARNING SOON RINGS TRUE...
LOOK... SUPERGIRL AT TWELVE O'CLOCK!
YOU'RE RIGHT! IT IS HER!
QUICKLY--REVERSE COURSE-- BEFORE WE GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE HER MEDUSA HEAD!
SOMEBODY'S GOT TO PUT SUPERGIRL AWAY! SHE'S TOO DANGEROUS TO BE LOOSE!
I WONDER HOW MANY OTHER PEOPLE SHE'S TURNED TO STONE!
THOSE PILOTS NEVER NOTICED MY CAPE-TURBAN WAS COVERING THE DEADLY SNAKES!...JUST THE SIGHT OF ME MADE THEM PANIC!
I WAS ONCE SOMEONE THE WORLD COULD COUNT ON FOR PROTECTION... LOOK UP TO IN TIMES OF NEED!
BUT NOW, BECAUSE OF THE MEDUSA CURSE, EVERYONE DREADS ME!
HEED ME, SUPERGIRL!!
GREAT KRYPTON! IT'S MITCH--DRESSED IN THE TOGS OF AN ANCIENT GREEK WARRIOR! AND HE'S FLYING!
W-WHO ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
I AM PERSEUS!
AND I MEAN TO SLAY YOU, GORGON--JUST AS I DID AGES AGO!
END PART TWO
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AS THE FIERY-WILLED WARRIOR ATTACKS, SUPERGIRL QUICKLY SUMS UP THE DILEMMA...
PART 3
ONLY ONE WAY TO EXPLAIN THIS-- JUST AS MEDUSA'S SPIRIT HAS INVADED ME— POOR MITCH MUST BE POSSESSED BY THE GHOST OF PERSEUS!
BUT THE TROUBLE IS... PERSEUS' GHOST IS CONVINCED I'M THE TRUE MEDUSA! HE DOESN'T KNOW WE'RE BOTH ON THE SAME SIDE!
DIE AGAIN, CURSED GORGON!
YOUR SWORD ALMOST KILLED ME!
OF COURSE! YOU FORGET, MY WEAPONS ARE MAGICAL... WHICH MEANS NOT EVEN YOUR SUPER-POWERS ARE IMMUNE TO THEM!
UH-OH! HE'S RIGHT--MY INVULNERABILITY WON'T PROTECT ME FROM MAGIC!
PERSEUS IS TRYING TO BEHEAD ME AT THE NECK... THE SAME WAY HE KILLED THE REAL MEDUSA CENTURIES AGO IN ANCIENT GREECE!
HO! YOU'RE BETTER AT COMBAT THAN YOU ONCE WERE, GORGON!
I'M NOT THE MEDUSA! WHAT WILL IT TAKE FOR ME TO GET THROUGH TO YOU?
15

OFF WITH THIS SCARLET TURBAN, MEDUSA! WHY CONCEAL THE VILE SERPENTS WE BOTH KNOW ARE THERE?
WHY IS PERSEUS TAKING SUCH A RISK--UNCOVERING THE SNAKES WHEN ONE GLANCE AT THEM COULD PETRIFY HIM?

BUT WHEN THE MAID OF MIGHT TAKES A CLOSER LOOK AT HER OPPONENT'S SHIMMERING SHIELD...
SO THAT'S WHAT HE'S UP TO!
HE WANTS ME TO SEE MY OWN REFLECTION IN HIS SHINY SHIELD--SO I'LL TURN MYSELF TO STONE!
A CLEVER STUNT--

SPLACK!!
--BUT NOT QUITE CLEVER ENOUGH!

SORRY, PERSEUS! LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN GET YOU TO SEE THINGS MY WAY!
I YIELD! I YIELD! DON'T MAKE ME GAZE AT YOUR NIGHTMARISH FACE!

STRUGGLE AS HE MAY, THE SPIRIT OF THE ANCIENT GREEK WARRIOR CANNOT DEFY THE STRENGTH OF THE GIRL OF STEEL...
LOOK AT ME, PERSEUS... LOOK!
NO! YOU'LL GAIN NOTHING BY TURNING THIS POOR LAD'S BODY TO STONE!

AND AS HIS HORRIFIED EYES GAZE UPON SUPERGIRL'S FACE...
NO! I BEG YOU-- DON'T MAKE ME--
--LOOK!
BUT WHILE THE PANIC-STRICKEN MITCH'S EYES WIDEN WITH FEAR...
WE SHIFT TO THE HILLS AND RUINED TEMPLES OF GREECE...
NO PLAN COULD BE BETTER CONCEIVED THAN MINE!
WHEN I PLACED THE MEDUSA CURSE UPON SUPERGIRL'S HEAD...I KNEW IT WOULD ANGER MY ETERNAL FOE, PERSEUS, INTO POSSESSING A MORTAL LAD'S BODY!
FOR PERSEUS LIVES ON AS A GHOST, LIKE ME!
THOUGHTS WELL HIDDEN FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD, NESTLED DEEP WITHIN THE AGE-OLD OLYMPIAN CATACOMBS BUILT EONS AGO BY THE ANCIENT GREEKS...
AND I KNOW MY HOT-HEADED NEMESIS WELL ENOUGH TO PREDICT THAT HE'D MISTAKE SUPERGIRL FOR ME--THINKING SHE WAS THE REAL MEDUSA!
SO, WHEN PERSEUS SLAYS SUPERGIRL WITH HIS MAGIC SWORD...HE'LL UNWITTINGLY ENABLE ME TO POSSESS HER BODY AND BECOME A SUPER-MEDUSA!
THEN I'LL BE IMMORTAL... AND INVINCIBLE! NOT EVEN PERSEUS--OR THE REST OF THE WORLD--WILL DEFY ME THEN!
I'LL SUMMON FORTH THE SPIRITS OF MY SISTERS AND WE GORGONS WILL RULE THE EARTH!
ABRUPTLY--THE AGELESS SERENITY AND SILENCE IS DRAMATICALLY INTERRUPTED...
CRASSHH!
SUPERGIRL!
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THESE SECRET CATACOMBS!?

WHERE ELSE COULD YOU BE, MEDUSA?
NOW THAT I'VE UNCOVERED YOUR TOMB-- I WANT YOU TO SEE THE LATEST VICTIM YOUR EVIL HAS CLAIMED!
QUICKLY, SUPERGIRL TAKES OFF AND RETURNS WITH A STIFF, UNMOVING HUMAN STATUE...
THIS SLAB OF STONE WAS ONCE A YOUNG MAN! HIS NAME WAS MITCH BAXTER... AND HE NEVER HARMED A LIVING THING WHILE HE WAS ALIVE!
THIS GRUDGE-FIGHT BETWEEN YOU AND PERSEUS SNUFFED THE LIFE OUT OF HIM!
CONTROL YOURSELF, SUPERGIRL! YOU'RE LETTING YOUR EMOTIONS RUN AWAY WITH YOU! DO YOU WANT TO SPEND YOUR LAST MOMENTS IN TEARS?
MY, MOMENTS AREN'T ALMOST UP, MEDUSA-- BUT YOURS ARE!
WHEN I GET THROUGH WITH YOU, YOU'LL BE BURIED UNDER TONS OF LUNAR ROCK ON THE MOON! LET'S SEE HOW MANY SPELLS YOU CAN CAST FROM THERE!
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW, SUPERGIRL--
--BECAUSE YOU'LL NEVER LAY EVEN ONE FINGER ON ME!
WH—ENSNARED BY SOME SORT OF GIANT WEB--!
BUT WHEN THE MAID FROM KRYPTON EXERTS HER FANTASTIC STRENGTH TO RIP THE STICKY, GLISTENING THREADS APART...
OMIGOSH! I-I CAN'T BREAK THROUGH THIS WEB... NO MATTER HOW MUCH I STRAIN MY SUPER-MUSCLES!
NATURALLY, SUPERGIRL! THE WEB IS THE WORK OF MY MAGIC-- AND IN SPITE OF YOUR POWERS, YOU'RE AS HELPLESS AS A POOR, UNFORTUNATE INSECT!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
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THE DEMONIC SPIDERS I CONJURED UP ARE SPINNING THE WEB AROUND YOU TIGHTER AND THICKER--
--UNTIL THERE WILL BE NOTHING LEFT OF YOU BUT A LIFELESS SHELL!
÷GASP÷ THAT'S FOR SURE! EVERY INCH OF MY BODY IS BEING SLOWLY STRANGLED!
AND THEN-- IT BEGINS WITH A FAINT CRACKLING, LIKE THE SOUND OF PEELING PLASTER--AS THE MEDUSA-GHOST BEHOLDS A SIGHT BEYOND BELIEF...
I'LL SAVE YOU, SUPERGIRL!
?!? THIS CANNOT BE! NO ONE CAN RETURN TO THE LIVING--AFTER BEING TURNED TO STONE!
TRUE, WICKED ONE! BUT I WAS NEVER PETRIFIED! SUPERGIRL CONVINCED ME SHE WAS ON MY SIDE AND WE CONCOCTED THIS SCHEME TOGETHER!
AND YOUR MAGIC WEB CANNOT DEFY MY MAGIC SWORD!
A FEW SLASHES LATER, AS SUPERGIRL STEPS FREE OF THE LETHAL THREADS...
IT'S ALL OVER, MEDUSA! YOU MIGHT'VE BEEN ABLE TO DEFEAT US SEPARATELY--
--BUT AS A TEAM WE'RE TOO MUCH FOR YOU!
NOT IF I PETRIFY BOTH OF YOU BY REVEALING MY FACE!
BUT THE NEXT SPLIT-INSTANT...
RUMBLLL!
÷WHEW÷ IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT FREAK CAVE-IN, WE'D BE A PAIR OF STATUES NOW! WHAT SHEER LUCK!
SOME "LUCK"--
19

--I SET OFF THAT CAVE-IN AT THE LAST SECOND WITH A QUICK SUPER-CLAP OF MY HANDS!
SUPERGIRL! YOUR HAIR... I THINK IT'S STARTING TO...
...CHANGE BACK TO NORMAL! IT HAS!
THEN MEDUSA'S SPELL IS REALLY BROKEN! THAT MEANS ALL THE PEOPLE I TURNED TO STONE--INCLUDING THE JLA--SHOULD BE BACK TO NORMAL ALSO!
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW, SUPERGIRL?
THE MEDUSA MAY HAVE BEEN A DEAD SPIRIT--BUT THOSE LETHAL SNAKES WE BARELY SAW WERE VERY MUCH ALIVE!
MUST FIND THEM AND DISPOSE OF THEM!
HOWEVER, WHEN THE DEBRIS HAS BEEN CLEARED AWAY...
MEDUSA STILL GETS THE LAST LAUGH! UNDERNEATH HER TOMB WAS HIDDEN A LARGE SNAKE PIT, FILLED WITH HUNDREDS OF SERPENTS!
NOW I'LL NEVER FIND THE MEDUSA-SNAKES!
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU FORCED ME TO LOOK AT YOU, SUPERGIRL--TO SEE THAT YOU REPLACED YOUR CAPE-TURBAN AFTER I RIPPED IT OFF!
IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD PROVE TO YOU THAT I WAS A FRIEND AND NOT A FOE!
SUDDENLY, SUPERGIRL'S MYTHOLOGICAL ALLY PLUMMETS THROUGH THE AIR, FLIGHTLESS...
HELP!...I'M FALLING... FALLING!
I EXPECTED THIS! THE PERSEUS SPIRIT MUST'VE JUST LEFT MITCH'S BODY, NOW THAT THE MEDUSA'S VANQUISHED - MITCH IS HIMSELF AGAIN!
W-WAS I ACTUALLY FLYING, SUPERGIRL? AND WHY AM I WEARING THIS STRANGE UNIFORM?
HAVE I GOT A NEW CHAPTER OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY TO TELL YOU, MITCH!
END

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER

Dear Editor:

You say you want our thoughts on SUPERGIRL's new magazine. Well here's mine: It's FANTASTIC! In Adventure Comics she never got her share of publicity, and she really does deserve it.

In SUPERGIRL #1 she was great, and has been that way ever since. Zatanna is great, too . . . I hope she backs up all of SUPERGIRL's adventures.

I have one other compliment. Please tell your artists they're real cool! No matter what situation SUPERGIRL's in she's always posed gracefully!

—Diane Stemmler, Warren, Michigan

Dear Diane:

Your message has already been passed on to our artists, Art Saaf and Vince Colletta. They thank you! And so do we. Keep reading and enjoying!

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

SUPERGIRL #4 was undoubtedly the best of the first four issues of this magazine. In Adventure Comics she was playing SUPERGIRL the Relevant, and the first three issues of her own title found her in the role of SUPERGIRL the Detective. A good start for an actress, this role-switching! With issue #4 she looks like she's back to SUPERGIRL the Super-Heroine again, involved in the clever stories that distinguish Superman-Family magazines from all others in the field.

"The Borrowed Brain" was really something else! At last SUPERGIRL's human side shows up again, after a great flaring up in Adventure Comics #424. This SUPERGIRL issue is surely one D.C. magazine that takes advantage of the big comics-revolution of the past three years. It takes the best feature of the relevant era . . . characterization and human insight . . . and mixes it with the stuff that made old comics entertainment. I hope David (the Scavinger) isn't forgotten. SUPERGIRL has a very few stock villains to worry about, and hunting a villain she loves would make things very interesting. Why not try bringing him back, super-powered or not?

On P. 1 the author's name is given as "Gary Bates." Any relation to Cary? Like maybe the same person?

The art was really great . . . and I mean that! I've seen just about every SUPERGIRL artist (from Swan, Mooney, Schaffenberger, and others), but I can honestly say that Art Saaf and Vince Colletta are the best . . . by a mile!

—Bob Rodi, Oak Brook, Illinois

Dear Bob:

There are so many people in the world . . . so why should SUPERGIRL (or any of the Superman family, for that matter) always keep worrying about "stock" characters? This would be limiting her perspective on the world, and it would also be limiting our view of how she copes with different types of problems. It would tend to make her unrealistic, which is just what you mention you like to see avoided in comics. We agree with you . . . characterization and human insight ARE precious to SUPERGIRL, and for that reason we will NOT listen to your suggestion.

"Gary" Bates doesn't exist, except as a typographical error. He and Cary Bates are in reality one and the same person (Oops . . . now I went and blew Cary's secret identity).

And finally . . . We know Saaf and Colletta are the best. That's why they're drawing the adventures of the Maid of Might! Just the same, it's nice to hear praise from fans.

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed "The Borrowed Brain" in SUPERGIRL #4, and thought that even though similar stories had been done in comics before, you handled this one beautifully. The dynamic interior artwork and the very powerful cover made this issue a classic to me. Thanks!

—Sam Kirkland, San Francisco, California

Short and to the point, right? And we thank you, Sam. But as an interesting contrast of readers' reactions, how's about the following?

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

"The Borrowed Brain" was just so-so, and there are a number of inconsistencies. For instance: If SUPERGIRL's blood is as indestructible and invulnerable as SHE is, two things would have happened. (1) Her blood would have been rejected as a strange, alien blood-type, and would not have been accepted into David's bloodstream. Or (2) even if it was accepted into his bloodstream, the Kryptonian blood would have killed David. Mortal blood vessels and a human heart could never take the strain of having indestructible blood coursing through them at the incredible speeds at which blood usually travels. Now THAT should have been the ending of the story!

—Helen Benson, Washington, D.C.

Dear Helen:

If you're not a medical student, then you've missed your calling! Unfortunately, you're wrong. From past experience (Superman has saved the life of Lois Lane and others via super-transfusions), SUPERGIRL knows her blood affects the bodies of Earthmen as a super-vitamin, fortifying all cells it comes in contact with, and destroying all disease germs in the process. So the recipient of the Kryptonian blood finds himself super-healthy and super-strong. If you don't believe me, just ask David. On second thought, I doubt that he'd answer you, being somewhat embittered over the catch . . . namely, these wonderful effects are only temporary!

—Allan Asherman, Editorial Assistant